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December 20, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing with regards to the Arizona Department of Water Resources' application to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for the Central Arizona Regional Irrigation Efficiency and Conservation Project.

The Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan was approved by Congress and signed by the president last spring. Arizona is now in the process of implementing provisions of the plan to offset reductions in Colorado River water. Arizona's implementation plan includes an irrigation infrastructure and efficiency project for irrigation districts in Maricopa and Pinal Counties known as the Central Arizona Regional Irrigation Efficiency and Conservation Project.

The Central Arizona Regional Irrigation Efficiency and Conservation Project is an integral part of drought planning in the Lower Colorado River Basin and the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area. This project is key to the success of Arizona's conservation commitments as part of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan and would reduce adverse economic, environmental, and social effects in Maricopa and Pinal Counties. The primary goal of the project is to supply irrigation water necessary to partially offset reductions and voluntary conservation of Colorado River water.

It is my honor to be a voice for Arizona communities, and I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to the Central Arizona Regional Irrigation Efficiency and Conservation Project to ensure implementation of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan. Please let me know if you have any questions about this letter, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyrsten Sinema U.S. Senator